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Assistant Director for Operations

30 March 1948

Chief, FBIS

PRAVDA Report of U.S. Spy Group in USSR Zone
of Occupied Germany

The following two articles relative to the above subject have been monitored by
FBIS to date:

PARIS IN FRENCH TO INDO-CHINA at 8:30 A.M., 30 March 1948

"PRAVDA has announced that a Fascist espionage organization has been discovered in
the Soviet occupation zone in Germany. According to PRAVDA, the organization is
financed by the American intelligence services."

MOSCOW, SOVIET HOME SERVICE, at 4:00 A.M., 30 March 1948

(Central Press Review) (Excerpts)

"PRAVDA's correspondent reports from Berlin:

"Recently an espionage body was discovered in the Soviet Occupation Zone in Germany.
It was headed by Herbert Pinkert, formerly a colonel in the German Army and
commander of a regiment in the Brandenburg special duties division. On Pinkert's
admission, he is a member of an illegal fascist organization in the Western Zone
consisting of officers of the former German Army who are employed by the American
Intelligence for espionage in the Soviet Zone.

"According to Pinkert, the center of this organization was located first in
Frankfort on the Main and in the spring of 1947 was transferred to Munich. It is
headed by Colonel General Halder, former Chief of Staff of the German Army. Pinkert
admitted that this illegal fascist organization is subsidized by the American
Intelligence and major German industrialists from whom it receives monthly large
sums of money.

"On several occasions Pinkert illegally entered the Soviet Zone where he recruited
officers of the former German Army whom he knew for the organization and gave the
American Intelligence information of a military, economic, and political nature,
in particular, details about Soviet Army units, airfields, and military commands."

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L. E. WHITE
Chief, FBIS

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